

Protesters barricade road

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Protesting residents rub amok in Ottoshoop, shattering windows and blocking the route. One woman arrested

ELFAS TORERAI

MOTORISTS travelling between Mahikeng and Zeerust had to use alternative routes on Monday after angry residents barricaded the road in Ottoshoop.

Residents also ran amok, torching a post office in the area, pelting police vehicles with stones.

They shattered the windows of a police station in the area and those of a house used to accommodate police officers.

Among other issues, residents demand that the Mahikeng local municipality improves services in the area.

For some time now, residents complained over the water supply and other social amenities in their area.

One woman was arrested in the skirmishes and is expected to appear in the Zeerust Magistrate's Court this week.

North West police spokesperson Brig Sabata Mokgwabone said that incidents of violence, destruction of property and anarchy would not be tolerated.

"Police management in North West condemned the acts of public violence that took place in Ottoshoop earlier on Monday and urged members of the community to refrain from damaging of properties," he said.

Mokgwabone said that an unforgotten number of Ottoshoop community members barricaded R49 road between Mahikeng and Zeerust, then later set alight a post office.



AMOK: Protesting residents barricaded the R49 road linking Mahikeng and Zeerust yesterday.

"They also pelted a police station and a house used to accommodate police officers with stones. This led to the damage of windowpanes of the buildings. Following barricading of the R49

with burning tyres and other objects, the road was temporarily closed," he said.

This led to traffic being diverted to other routes.

"Due to temporary road closure, motorists utilising the R49 from Zeerust to Mahikeng are advised as follows: From Zeerust along R49, take Jagersfontein, via Klip-

pan, Twyfelshoek, then Slurry and Mahikeng.

"Alternatively, they can use N4 to Lobatse, Khunotswane, Matlhatsi, Madutle, Ramatlabama and Mahikeng.

"Motorists are advised that these are gravel roads. Those that are travelling to Zeerust from Mahikeng are advised to use the same routes," Mokgwabone said.

Those travelling from Mahikeng to Rustenburg and Pretoria were urged to use R503 to Lichtenburg.

Mokgwabone said that a 30-year-old female suspect had been arrested for public violence, malicious damage to property and Contravention of the National Road Traffic Act, 1996.

"She is expected to appear in the Zeerust Magistrate's Court soon," he said.

Provincial police commissioner Lt-Gen Baile Motswenyane said members of the public should desist from destroying property and find other means to vent their frustrations.

"We would like to make an appeal to members of the community to refrain from destroying buildings and other properties as this is unlawful and cannot be tolerated.

"We also want to make it clear that no violence will be tolerated and the police will act against any person who commits crime," she said.

Police continued to maintain a huge presence in the area yesterday afternoon.

elfast@thenewage.co.za